

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of illuminating a rotary blade comprising:
applying a passively charged photoluminescent paint to a rotary blade.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein a layer of a primer is applied to said rotary blade before applying said passively charged photoluminescent paint.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said primer is reflective.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein said reflective primer comprises high solids and a polyurethane coating.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said high solids comprises at least one polyester resin, at least one pigment, and at least one solvent.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein said polyurethane coating comprises an aliphaticisocyanate resin and at least one solvent.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein a layer of a white reflective primer coat is applied to said rotary blade before applying said passively charged photoluminescent paint.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
sealing said passively charged photoluminescent paint with a topcoat sealer.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein said topcoat sealer comprises high solids and a polyurethane coating.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein said high solids comprises at least one polyester resin, at least one pigment, and at least one solvent.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein said polyurethane coating comprises an aliphaticisocyanate resin and at least one solvent.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said passively charged photoluminescent paint comprises high solids and a polyurethane coating.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said high solids comprises at least one polyester resin, at least one pigment, and at least one solvent.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein said polyurethane coating comprises an aliphatic isocyanate resin and at least one solvent.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sealing said passively charged photoluminescent paint with a substantially transparent topcoat sealer.

16. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

sealing said passively charged photoluminescent paint with a substantially transparent topcoat sealer.

17. A photoluminescent paint system comprising a reflective primer coat, a passively charged photoluminescent coat disposed above at least a portion of said white reflective primer coat, and a substantially transparent topcoat sealer disposed above at least a portion of said passively charged photoluminescent coat.

18. A photoluminescent paint system comprising a primer coat, a passively charged photoluminescent coat, and a topcoat sealer coat, all of said coats being disposed on a rotary blade.

19. A method of illuminating a rotary blade comprising:

applying a passively charged photoluminescent film to a rotary blade with an adhesive film.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

sealing leading edges of said passively charged photoluminescent film with an edge sealer.

21. An illuminated rotary blade comprising:

a rotary blade for a vehicle having a passively charged photoluminescent film affixed to said rotary blade, and leading edges of said passively charged photoluminescent film sealed with an edge sealer.

22. An illuminated rotary blade comprising:

a rotary blade for a vehicle having an electro-luminescent film incorporated into said rotary blade.

23. The illuminated rotary blade of claim 22, wherein said electro-luminescent film comprises phosphor laminated between two insulators that are further laminated between two conductors, one of which is substantially transparent.

24. The illuminated rotary blade of claim 23, wherein said substantially transparent conductor comprises Indium-Tin Oxide (ITO).

25. An illuminated blade comprising:

a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end having a thickness less than said distal end; and a passively charged photoluminescent material affixed near said proximal end and along a longitudinal axis thereof.